

device is configured to operate according to at least one rule, at block 210; and causing the at least one rule to be applied to the first device in response to detection of the rule-copy action, so as to configure the first device to operate according to the at least one rule at block 220. Detecting the rule-copy action may, as described above, comprise detecting a motion imparted on the first device and on the second device at substantially the same time. Additionally or alternatively, detecting the rule-copy action may comprise detecting a proximity of the first device to the second device and/or detecting a position of the first device with respect to the second device. Moreover, in some embodiments, the second device may be identified based on participation in the rule-copy action.

[0054] Depending on how the apparatus is embodied (e.g., by the first device or by a server) and where the rule(s) are stored (on the first and second devices and/or on the server), in some embodiments, causing the at least one rule to be applied to the first device may comprise communicating with the second device at block 230. In other embodiments, causing the at least one rule to be applied to the first device may comprise communicating with a server at block 240, whereas in still other embodiments causing the at least one rule to be applied to the first device may comprise communicating with the first device at block 250.

[0055] In some embodiments, certain ones of the operations above may be modified or further amplified as described below. Furthermore, in some embodiments, additional optional operations may be included, some examples of which are shown in dashed lines in FIG. 6. Modifications, additions, or amplifications to the operations above may be performed in any order and in any combination.

[0056] In an example embodiment, an apparatus for performing the method of FIG. 6 above may comprise a processor (e.g., the processor 70 of FIG. 1) configured to perform some or each of the operations (200-250) described above. The processor may, for example, be configured to perform the operations (200-250) by performing hardware implemented logical functions, executing stored instructions, or executing algorithms for performing each of the operations. Alternatively, the apparatus may comprise means for performing each of the operations described above. In this regard, according to an example embodiment, examples of means for performing at least portions of operations 200, 210, and 230-250 may comprise, for example, the processor 70, the communication interface 74, and/or a device or circuit for executing instructions or executing an algorithm for processing information as described above. Examples of means for performing operation 220 may comprise, for example, the processor 70, the communication interface 74, the memory device 76, and/or a device or circuit for executing instructions or executing an algorithm for processing information as described above.

[0057] Many modifications and other embodiments of the inventions set forth herein will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which these inventions pertain having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the inventions are not to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed and that modifications and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. Moreover, although the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings describe example embodiments in the context of certain example combinations of elements and/

or functions, it should be appreciated that different combinations of elements and/or functions may be provided by alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In this regard, for example, different combinations of elements and/or functions than those explicitly described above are also contemplated as may be set forth in some of the appended claims. Although specific terms are employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to at least:

detect a rule-copy action at a first device;

identify a second device in response to the rule-copy action, wherein the second device is configured to operate according to at least one rule; and

cause the at least one rule to be applied to the first device in response to detection of the rule-copy action, so as to configure the first device to operate according to the at least one rule.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to detect the rule-copy action by detecting a motion imparted on the first device and on the second device at substantially the same time.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to detect the rule-copy action by detecting a proximity of the first device to the second device.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to detect the rule-copy action by detecting a position of the first device with respect to the second device.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to identify the second device based on participation of the second device in the rule-copy action.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to cause the at least one rule to be applied to the first device via communication with the second device.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to cause the at least one rule to be applied to the first device via communication with a server.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to cause the at least one rule to be applied to the first device via communication with the first device.

9. A method comprising:

detecting a rule-copy action at a first device;

identifying, via the processor, a second device in response to the rule-copy action, wherein the second device is configured to operate according to at least one rule; and